

NEWS RELEASE

Only a fortnight to go to have your say

West Midlanders have only a fortnight left to contribute to a major consultation carried out by West Midlands Regional Assembly into the future shape of the Region.

West Midlands Regional Assembly which is carrying out the Phase Two Revision of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy strives to reshape the Region for the next 20 years.

West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy, Phase Two Revision looks at how many new houses should be built and where, what improvements are required to the Region's transport networks, the management of waste, where new employment opportunities should be created and how the Region's city and town centres should grow.

The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Revision aims to promote the regeneration and development of our urban and rural areas. This includes proposals for building up to 365,600 new homes in the Region with a particular emphasis on providing affordable housing. A key principle in this is that new housing should be planned and develop in the right locations and in conjunction with provision of jobs, infrastructure and services.

Emphasising the importance of this consultation, Cllr Rex Roberts, chairman of the Regional Planning Partnership, said: "West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy has been developed with the intention of making this Region a more prosperous and sustainable one. But it is very important on that we hear from as many individuals as possible. The work we are doing now and the decisions made following on from the consultation will have a major impact on the West Midlands over the next 20 years and beyond. "

To make representations on any part of the WMRSS Phase Two Revision, please send your responses no later than Monday 8 December, to:

WMRSS Panel Secretary
c/o Government Office for the West Midlands
5 St Philips Place
Colmore Row
Birmingham
B3 2PW

wm.panelsecretary@gowm.gsi.gov.uk

To make an online response please visit www.wmra.gov.uk.

All representations will be considered by an independent panel of experts at an Examination in Public which will open in late April next year. The Panel will report to the

Secretary of State who will then decide exactly how the Regional Spatial Strategy should be changed.

To find out more contact West Midlands Regional Assembly: email info@wmra.gov.uk

Notes to Editors

The consultation on the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision Draft period was extended to 8 December by the Assembly following a letter received from Baroness Andrews in January 2008.

This letter informed the Assembly that Government Office for the West Midlands would commission a study to provide the Panel undertaking the Examination in Public with further options that could deliver higher housing numbers. This led to the consultation being extended to Monday 8 December.

ENDS

For further information please contact Jay Rana, press officer on 0121 245 0181.

About the West Midlands Regional Assembly

1. The West Midlands Regional Assembly ('the Assembly') represents a wide range of democratic, social and economic interests throughout the West Midlands region.
2. The Assembly's membership consists of 100 nominated representatives, with 68 members representing the local authority, 16 representing the business sector and 16 representing other economic and social partners.
3. The Assembly provides a platform for organizations to consider matters of common concern including: regional planning, transport, economic prosperity, sustainability, culture and Europe. It also supports regional policy forums and task groups on social inclusion, faith, housing, life long learning/skills, health, rural and community safety/crime reduction.
4. The Assembly works in partnership with Advantage West Midlands (AWM) the regional development agency (RDA), the Government Office West Midlands (GOWM), Regional Action West Midlands (RAWM) the West Midlands Local Government Association (WMLGA) and other regional and local organizations from across the West Midlands region.
5. The Assembly is the Regional Planning Body, and is also responsible for scrutinizing the operation of the region's RDA, Advantage West Midlands.
6. For further information, visit our website www.wmra.gov.uk

- ENDS -

For further information please contact Jay Rana, Press Officer, 0121 245 0181.